

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe Brings You News from Sacramento

June 17, 2002

Equal Rights for Domestic Partners

Contractors who do business with the state of California may be required to offer employees domestic partner benefits, if my Assembly Bill 1080 passes. The state of California already provides domestic partner benefits to its employees, and it's time we require businesses we contract with to do the same. While many private-sector businesses already offer these benefits to employees, it could put them at a competitive disadvantage. When these businesses compete for state contracts with businesses that cut costs by refusing to provide domestic partner benefits, these businesses are at a serious disadvantage. You can view the text of this legislation by going to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov> and searching for AB 1080 in "Active Bills".

Keeping patients informed

Since the beginning of 2001, more than 350,000 Californian HMO patients have had their health care disrupted by the closure of thirty-six medical groups. Often times without notice a medical group will close, forcing patients to immediately switch doctors, and delay or reschedule surgeries or appointments. In an effort to keep consumers informed of a health care organization's financial viability, I've introduced legislation that would require organizations that provide HMO health care to inform patients on basic information about their financial health and future. Learn more about this legislation by going to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov> and searching for AB 684 in "Active Bills".

San Diego River bill before Senate

My bill to establish a San Diego River Conservancy (AB 2156), will be heard in the Senate on Tuesday, June 25. If passed, the conservancy, consisting of state and local elected officials, would oversee the land management of the river for the purpose of conservation, preservation and enhancement. For more information go to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov> and search for AB 2156. Fax your support to Senator Kuehl, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, at (916) 323-2232.

100% on Planned Parenthood's Scorecard

Every year Planned Parenthood publishes a legislative scorecard rating how legislators voted on bills that could affect the reproductive rights and lives of Californians. You'll be pleased to know that I received a score of 100 percent for my 2001 voting record. I stand by Planned Parenthood, and it's rewarding to be recognized for voting on issues I feel so strongly about. A woman's right to choose is important to Californians, and in the Assembly I will continue to vote to protect freedom of choice. For information on pro-choice-related legislation, go to www.plannedparenthood.com.

Free Eye Care for seniors

Vision loss is hard to accept under any circumstances. It is even harder to accept when the loss could have been avoided. The EyeCare America® - National Eye Care Project® (ECA-NECP) is a nationwide public service program that helps individuals 65 and older save their sight. The NECP provides a complete medical eye exam and treatment for any eye condition diagnosed for up to one year at no out-of-pocket expense. Spring into action and call the NECP toll-free number, **800-222-EYES** today and see if you qualify for an eye examination. For detailed information, go to www.aao.org.

Black Independence Day

On June 19, 2002, we will celebrate the 137th Anniversary of "Juneteenth," which celebrates the freedom of the slaves at the close of the Civil War. It is also called "Black Independence Day." Juneteenth celebrates freeing the slaves at the close of the Civil War. It is based on events that took place in Texas and takes its name from June 19, 1865, which is the day federal troops arrived in Galveston to enforce The Emancipation Proclamation. For more information on how to celebrate in San Diego, go to www.sdbp.com, San Diego's Black Pages, and scroll to the bottom of the page to click on "Calendar of Events".

Where you can find me in June:

- June 21, 10 to 10:30 a.m. – First Annual Clean Water Summit Awards Event, Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle N.
- June 22, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m – Mobile District Office, 3550 Murphy Canyon Rd. (in front of Vons)
- June 23, 1 to 2p.m. - San Diego County Fair, Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Introducing the “Kehoe Library”

Available in my office are a variety of free brochures on various subjects. Our most recent one, “California State Parks” will help you get back in touch with San Diego’s extraordinary parks and beaches –just in time for summer! Email me at Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov to get a listing of our brochures and have some sent to you.